



April 9, 2015

THE JINX



The Jinx is another HBO documentary that has garnered a great deal of attention. This one covers the life and deaths of Robert Durst, a wealthy man who has seemingly gotten away with murder twice and who may get away with it again, if the news is to be believed. The phrase "truth is stranger than fiction" has never been truer than in this story of a man whose traumatic and tragic childhood has resulted in an odd detachment from others, in a way that is quite disturbing when you consider the things he has been found guilty of doing and yet acquitted for not intending to do.

When you see Durst talking about himself, you get the sense that he really is two different people. One is an eccentric millionaire who lives in a fantasy world of his own making. The other is an impulsive manipulator who uses people, women in particular, to help him get out of very extraordinary circumstances.

His inability to understand or accept consequences for his behaviors makes you wonder if he is just under the delusion that he can get away with anything because he can afford the best legal representation because clearly he has, or if his delusions are so well crafted that he gets other people to go along with them. Either way, there is an evil genius quality to his particular brand of what feels like the definition of crazy. And yet, he seems more like a character out of a Showtime serial than an actual serial killer. The jury hasn't been selected yet, but it remains to be seen if he gets caught this time around. The documentary follows his relationships and his trials in such a way as to make you wonder if Durst knows exactly what he is doing and if all of this uncensored self-talk is part of the whole scam.

Either that or he just wants to be caught. Who is to say? When you hear that he dissected his neighbor and got off on a self-defense charge, you have to wonder how he came to be capable of such acts. But there are some answers in *The Jinx* in the form of an image of his mother on a roof top, while little Bobby at age 7 looks on as she tumbles to the ground.

How that scenario was constructed is for me the greatest mystery of all. The documentary shows a lot of reasons why Durst is how he is now, but none of them excuses him from his crimes. He seems emotionally unaffected by all of it, which makes me think that there is so much more underneath the surface. *The Jinx* is not your typical documentary because Durst is not your typical murderer. His trial is coming up, so the final chapter is not written yet. Only time will tell.



I give *The Jinx* four golden tickets.

